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In Memoriam.

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George Masten Kimbark.

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❖ IN MEMORIAM ❖ WITHDRAWN

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GEORGE MASTEN KIMBARK.

*Born May 18, 1833.*

*Died Jan. 9, 1880.*

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KNIGHT & LEONARD, PRINTERS.  
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## GEORGE MASTEN KIMBARK.

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On the morning of the 9th of January, A.D. 1880, George Masten Kimbark died at his residence in Hyde Park, near the city of Chicago, Illinois. On Sunday, the 11th of January, the funeral services took place at the family residence, and then the remains, attended by relatives and friends, were borne to Graceland Cemetery, and there deposited.

A beloved member of a numerous circle of immediate relatives and of personal friends, it has been assumed proper to place in this simple but more than ordinarily enduring form, a brief memorial of his life, and, incidentally, of his family, that affection and respect may be reminded, from time to time, of the ties with which he was bound when living, and of the Promise of that endless union into which all are to be gathered hereafter.

George Masten Kimbark was born in Venice, Cayuga county, New York, on May 18, in the

year 1833. He was educated, in part, at Alfred Academy, Allegheny county, New York, and in part, at a later day, at Geneseo Academy, Livingston county, New York.

In 1854, when yet a young man, he moved to Chicago, where a brother and two sisters had preceded him. He was appointed book-keeper for E. G. Hall & Co., of which firm his brother, Seneca D. Kimbark, was then the junior member. He soon became popular as a salesman, and in 1860, upon the organization of the firm of Hall, Kimbark & Co., he was admitted as a partner; and held his interest in that firm, and in that of its successors (Kimbark Bros. & Co., and S. D. Kimbark) until January 1, 1876, when he sold out to his brother, Seneca D., and after that date, and up to the time of his death, was not actively engaged in business.

In 1860 he married Miss Elizabeth Gray, daughter of the Hon. Samuel Gray, of Bowdoinham, Maine. This lady and her only child, George, aged sixteen years, survive the husband and father.

Though intensely devoted to his mercantile

affairs, Mr. Kimbark found time to participate in other matters. He took an active part in politics, not in office seeking, but in the promotion of public interests. In the early part of the war he was especially active in behalf of the Union cause. He enlisted, organized and equipped a company of infantry at his own expense, which company, in honor of its founder, took the name of the "Kimbark Guards." At the close of the war the "Guards" returned (after its long and honorable service) to Mr. Kimbark the flag he had presented to them on their going to the front. He took an active part in the revival of the Young Men's Association, of Chicago; and in the efforts to provide the city, through that association, with a large and complete library—a great public want at that time. In 1863 he was elected president of that association; and his successful labors were none the less honorable and commendable because the fruits were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1871.

Mr. Kimbark was a man of warm impulses and generous in all things. He made countless acquaintances and drew them to him in



close friendship. Liberal in all things, generous at all times, bright and pleasing in his conversation, untiring in his labor to serve those in need, he could not fail to occupy a warm place in the hearts of others. A good business man, an intelligent merchant, a lover of his country and of his fellow-men, he enjoyed the affection of all with whom he came into association. Beloved within the domestic circle as son, brother, husband and father, beyond that circle he was hardly less respected and esteemed. Ill health restrained his activity in the latter years of his life, but he never lost that buoyancy of spirits, and generous sympathy with others, which had always made him conspicuous among his associates and friends.

The funeral services were attended by a large number of relatives and friends, and, as a fitting closing to this brief memorial of George Masten Kimbark, the following report of the eloquent and touching discourse of the Rev. W. H. Ryder, D.D., pastor of St. Paul's Church, Chicago, is appended :

A short time before our friend passed from earth he expressed the wish to those who were near him that I should conduct the religious services connected with his burial. In response to that wish I am here this afternoon. Our acquaintance covers some twenty years—the most of his active life—and all of my residence in this city.

As I came into this room a few moments ago, and looked upon the pleasant face of our departed friend, wasted by disease, and yet radiant with the sunny look which distinguished him, there floated before my mind a vision of those far-away days when we were much together, when his body was young and strong, and his brain was vigorous and clear. How active he was then. Prominent and foremost in many enterprises for the public good,—he was full of courage and full of cheer. His plans were broad; his step was quick and elastic, as if his heart was in his work. And when the war came—that fearful epoch in the history of our nation, which tried the courage of us all, and brought sorrow to so many homes—how zealously and generously he worked to preserve the unity of the nation he loved. His whole nature was alive with patriotic emotion. He gave his time and his money freely. And in this abandonment of himself to the sentiment that swayed him, you get a view of one of the prevailing characteristics of his nature. He was largely controlled by feeling; he did not always deliberately consider what he could afford to do. The question of cost yielded to the question of duty; he was generous almost to a fault. And when you add to this trait of his character his eminent

social qualities, and the leading interest which he took in the establishment, in this city, of institutions for the culture of the people, it is not, I think, difficult to see him substantially as he was—active, hopeful, energetic, social and kind, gentlemanly and generous; with a natural antipathy for low and vulgar things, and a desire to throw his whole weight on the side of good order and cultivated life.

It is these qualities of the man, and the admiration which traits like these naturally excite, that has brought together, in this somewhat remote place, and on this rainy afternoon, so large a number of his companions and friends—for friend *he* was to many of you who are here, and a “friend indeed” to many who are not.

As life flows on we realize more and more the mystery of existence; what perplexities beset our ways; what hopes encourage us. We are so strong, and yet so weak; we are wise, and yet foolish. Our life appears long when we compare it with that of some other beings, and yet but as a day when we think of the possibilities of the soul. We yearn after God and the fullness of the Divine Wisdom, and the Holy Places of Love, and yet are scarcely on our way toward the high goal of our desire before the body weakens by age, and the days of our years on earth are numbered. And is this all? Nay: Mortal is man by the laws of his physical organization; but immortal, deathless, by the birthright which he derives from God. And it is only when these Divine elements of our humanity control us, that we are satisfied with ourselves. The voice of God teaches us what manner of people we should be, and

the more nearly we heed that voice the happier shall we be, and the better prepared for the experiences of this life and the realities of the life to come.

Some of you whom I now address are still young in years, and the fullness of your life is before you. You are, by your daily acts, laying the foundation of your personal character. To but very few is it permitted to build but once. The place we make for ourselves in the world of human activity it is not easy to vacate. Take heed, then, to your ways; consider how and what you are building. Whether the structure will stand,—whether it is founded upon the rock of rectitude, or upon the shifting sands of human caprice or unholy desire. Let the lives of others instruct you,—their successes, their defeats; their excellences, their defects. You see great good in many—some good in all. That good you admire, try to imitate it. Be ambitious to be useful, to be noble-minded, generous in your relations with others, and above all mean and low acts. God calls you to high uses; aspire to be worthy the companionship of the best manhood of your time.

No life is perfect. Only one of the lives lived upon this earth is commended to us by our religion as the perfect example. And as we stand here to-day how mighty is the influence which that perfect life of our Lord exerts upon us all. All human lives are judged by that life; all acts by his acts; all human opinion by his gracious words. What a gift to man! What a bestowal of wisdom and love! Some element of that life is in the hearts of us all. Far are we, indeed, from his perfection;

still we rejoice in the assurance that we are not wholly without knowledge of him, nor without some faint perception of the tenderness of his spirit, and the divineness of his words.

Shall we not, then, in the impressive silence of this hour, as we thus clearly see what the true elements of human greatness are, seek to renew our vows of fidelity to God and humanity; and with charity toward all, as we ourselves hope to be forgiven, press vigorously and yet considerately forward in the race of life, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame; and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God?"

One after another falls out of the ranks of the army of the living. Great changes have occurred in this city since our friend first entered it; and of those who then united their efforts with his, many have gone to their reward. Those who are older realize these changes more than those who are younger, for in their own experience they have become familiar with death, and neighbor to the grave. Thus it is, that in this presence, the memories of the dead come to us afresh. They seem so near; eternity is time, and time is eternity. The past, the present, the future, are all as now; we live and never die. The physical body only ceases to exist as a vital structure. The soul passes on to its spiritual home. "There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

Death is usually a sad event. It brings shadows with

it that darken our human pathway. But these thoughts of human duty, of the Divine Love, and His tender care for us all, dispel them in part at least. When the sun is high in the heavens, the shadows upon the earth under him are neither large nor many; so when we are able, through a trustful obedience, to go to God in our afflictions, we find our "burdens" lighter than we had thought, and our "rest" greater than we had dared to hope.

To the relatives present on this occasion we commend these hopes and assurances of the Infinite Goodness and Divine Compassion, and especially as they are set forth in the life,—teaching sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord. To the absent mother, in her increasing years, and to other relatives and friends not able to be with us to-day, we send assurances of our sympathy and kind remembrances, and commend them to the favor of Him who is the Maker of us all.

God bless the aged mothers who still tarry with us this side the grave. God bless them, and be very tender toward them. And may their hearts, still warm with love, be comforted by the assurance, that the interest which they have in their children is but an indication of the tender mercy of God for all the members of his family, whether they live in the body of the flesh, or in the body of the spirit.

George M. Kimbark was the son of Adam C. Kimbark and Sarah (Masten) Kimbark, both born in Ulster county, New York; the

former on October 10, in the year 1798, and the latter on January 31, in the year 1802. They were married at Shawangunk, Ulster county, New York, on the 10th of December, 1818.

From Ulster county they removed to Scipio, Cayuga county, in 1823, and resided in that vicinity until 1839, when they removed to Livingston county, where they resided many years, and where the boyhood of George M. was spent.

The business life of Adam C. Kimbark was during the early days before the railway train had superseded the stage-coach; it was divided between agriculture, mercantile pursuits and hotel keeping, which at times he carried on concurrently; having acquired a competency, he retired from business and resided several years in Auburn, N. Y., whence he removed to Rochester, where he died in A.D. 1867. Throughout his life he had enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all, preserving to the last his high character for personal integrity.

Mrs. Sarah (Masten) Kimbark survives her husband at (in 1880) the age of 78 years. She

resides at Genoa, Cayuga county, in which neighborhood much of her midlife was passed, and where her two surviving brothers have lived for more than half a century, and who are now companions of her old age.

Henry Kimbark, the first born of the family of eleven children, died in infancy in the year 1821.

Seneca D. and Daniel A. Kimbark are merchants, engaged in business in the city of Chicago.

The daughters of the family were seven in number: Of these Hannah, wife of Augustus Parsons, died in Chicago in 1851.

Elizabeth, wife of Elbridge G. Hall, died February 7, 1866.

Both of these ladies were early residents of Chicago, and were universally beloved and admired in the society whose friendship and affection they attracted and retained.

Theresa, the youngest of the family, wife of Charles Siddons, Esq., of Rochester, New York, died in that city in the year 1870. Gentle, affectionate and confiding, she was beloved by a large circle of relatives and friends.



Four daughters survive their younger brother:  
Mrs. Harriet Brower, of Stockbridge, Michigan;  
Caroline, wife of Jeremiah Bolles, Esq., of  
Livonia, New York;

Lucetta, wife of George W. Kelly, Esq., of  
Groveland, New York; and

Cornelia, wife of Darius H. Wells, Esq., of  
Chicago, Ill.

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[From the Chicago "Tribune."]

George M. Kimbark, one of the most esteemed among the merchants of Chicago, died yesterday morning at two o'clock, at his residence at Hyde Park. Mr. Kimbark has been for over a quarter of a century closely identified with the best interests of Chicago, having been a resident since 1854. He was born in Cayuga County, New York, May 18, 1833, and in his youth had the benefit of that education which in after years made him a man among men; he was reared in an atmosphere of refinement, which crept into his life and made people instinctively become his friends; he was a man of principle; enterprise characterized his business career, and liberality, charity, and gentleness his social life; he was the friend and patron of everything that tended to elevate the morality of the city, and the opponent of everything that tended to degrade it.

In the midst of his busy mercantile career the deceased found time to identify himself with many institutions and

many movements for the public weal. In 1863 he was elected President of the Young Men's Association, and with his wealth and his time labored assiduously for the establishment of one of the largest public libraries then in the west. This library was swept away in the fire of 1871. He was an unswerving politician, and showed much activity during the election of Abraham Lincoln. His patriotism was shown when the first call was made for 300,000 troops. At once he organized, and at his own expense equipped, a company known as the Kimbark Guards. It is needless to say that the announcement of the death of such a man as George M. Kimbark was the occasion of much regret among the friends he had drawn around him during his life.

[From the Chicago "Times."]

In the death of Mr. George M. Kimbark, which occurred on yesterday morning at two o'clock, at his residence in the town of Hyde Park, Chicago loses a citizen of prominence in both business and social circles. Mr. Kimbark was born in Cayuga County, New York, May 18, 1833, and received an academic education at Geneseo academy. He removed to Chicago in 1854, and in 1860 became a member of the firm of Hall, Kimbark & Co. The same year he married Miss Elizabeth Gray, of Bowdoinham, Me. Mr. Kimbark leaves a wife and one son, sixteen years of age. In 1863 he was elected president of the Young Men's Association. Being a man of wealth, and possessing a genuine love of literature, he was liberal in contributing to the establishment of the elegant library

of that association which was destroyed in the great fire of 1871. During the war he equipped and sent to the field a company of soldiers, named, in his honor, the Kimbark Guards. He suffered heavy loss by the fire of 1871 and the panic of 1873, but he suffered no loss up to the time of his death of the warm esteem borne him by his friends in this city and throughout the west.

[From the Chicago "Evening Journal," January 9.]

The many friends of Mr. George M. Kimbark will be pained to learn of his death, from congestion of the lungs, which took place at two o'clock this morning, at his residence at Hyde Park, this county. Mr. Kimbark was born in Cayuga County, New York, May 18, 1833; was educated at Geneseo Academy, New York, where he first formed those social qualities that added so much to his popularity and won him so many warm personal friends in his social as well as business relations. He came to Chicago in 1854—soon afterward became a member of the well-known iron firm of Hall, Kimbark & Co.—afterward Kimbark Bros. In 1860 he was married to Elizabeth Gray, daughter of the Hon. Samuel Gray, of Bowdoinham, Me. He leaves a wife, with one son sixteen years of age.

In 1863 Mr. Kimbark was elected President of the Young Men's Association, and used his wealth at that time with a liberal hand to establish the largest public library then in the west, which was afterward destroyed by the great fire of 1871. He was a staunch republican during the war, very active in the election of Abraham Lincoln,

and upon the first call for 300,000 troops, equipped, at his own expense, a company of soldiers known as the Kimbark Guards. He presented them with a beautiful flag, which was returned to him by those brave soldiers after the war, and is now left with his family as a memento of his patriotic zeal. The great fire of 1871 and the panic of 1873 crippled his resources, but never wavered the spirit of friendship or lessened the esteem of his many friends.

[From the Chicago "Inter-Ocean."]

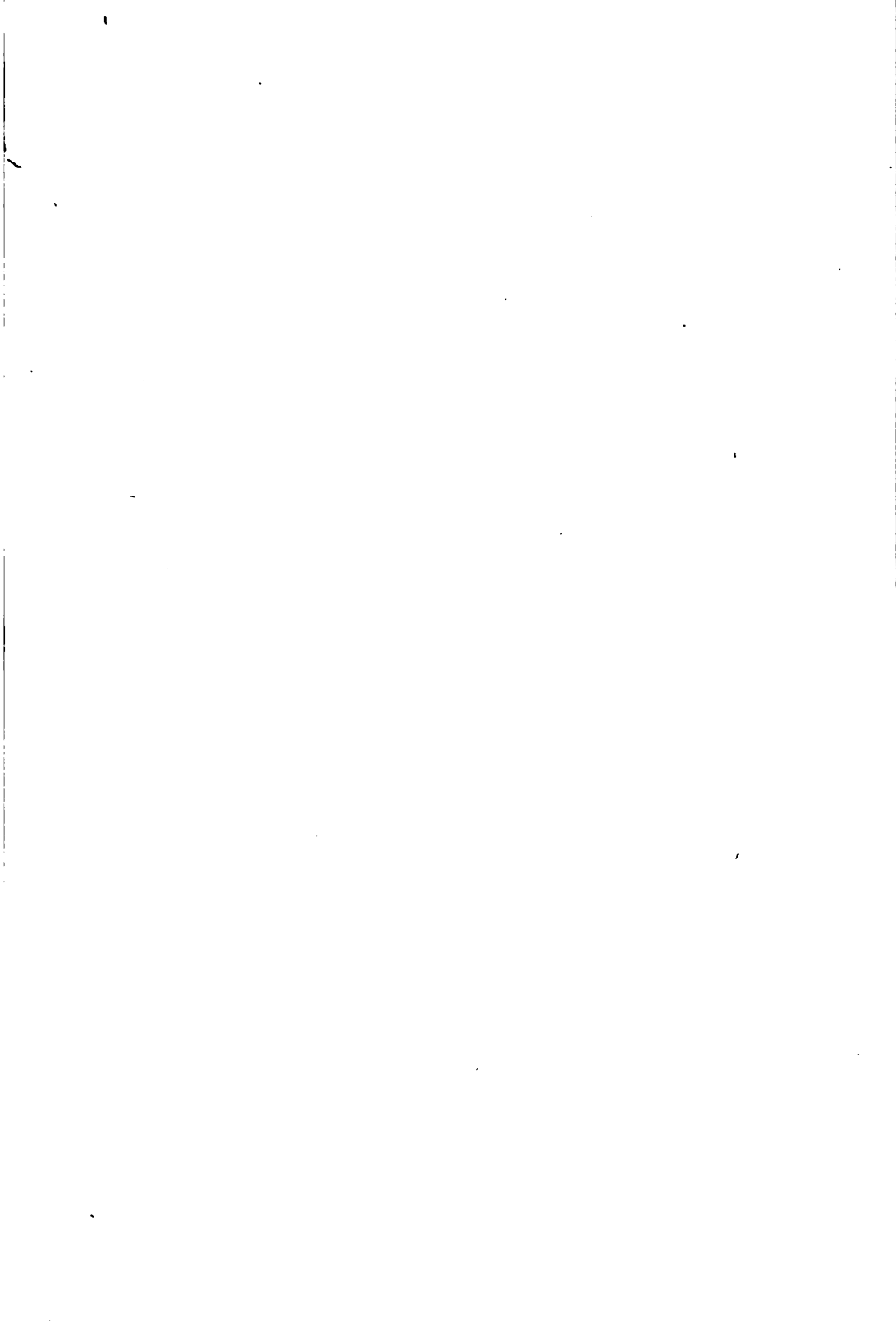
To the Editor of the Inter-Ocean.

I notice with sadness the death of Mr. Geo. M. Kimbark, of this city, and desire to pay my tribute of respect to his memory. It seems but yesterday, and yet it was back in the '50's, when my acquaintance with him began. He was prominent in a circle of young men just then beginning business life whose careers, if studied, would be remarkable for success. His traits of character were strong and peculiar, and early developed. He was extremely generous, always kind, thoroughly benevolent, and honorable in all his ways. His friends in those days were many, and as he gained and never lost in friendship, at the time of his death they were a great host. I knew him intimately, and knew his friends, and knew the walks of his life, and I can say truly that no ill was ever spoken of him. About 1860 he was President of the Young Men's Association, a position he filled with dignity and honor. When the war for the Union came he was as true as steel to his country's cause. And it is this period of his life

I love to contemplate; his many patriotic acts, his prompt and liberal financial aid, deserve and receive the thanks of every loyal heart. If any members of the Kimbark Guards are in hearing of his death they will drop a tear in memory of his devotion to their interests. In politics he was a stalwart republican, and his loss will be felt among the workers of that party. In religion his views were broad and liberal, yet positive; his faith in ultimate good for the whole human family seemed born of the best elements of his nature. Thus has passed away another of the best of earth. His family and friends mourn, but the recollection of his goodness and integrity removes the sting of death.

M.

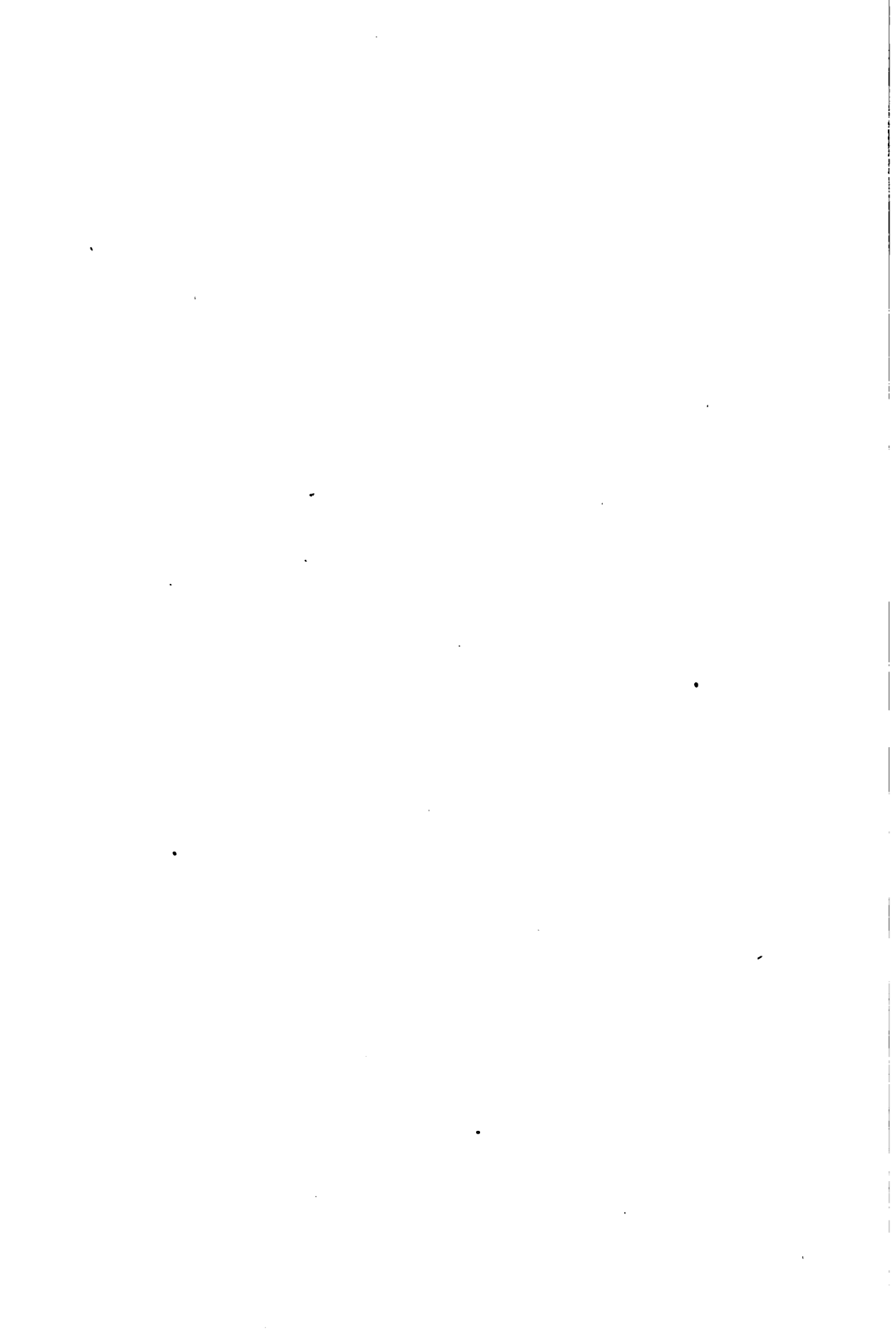






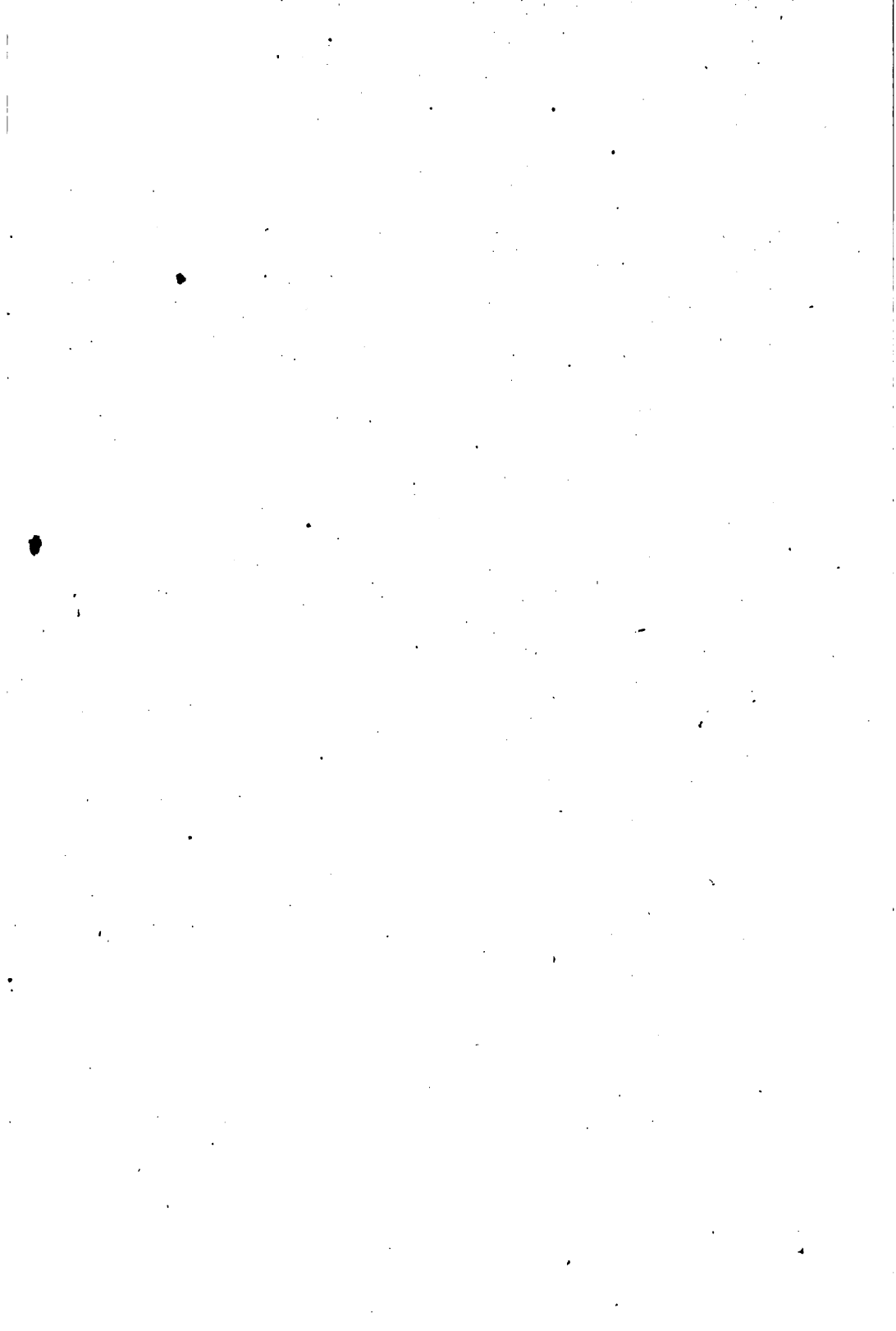














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